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OPENING ADDRESS*

Twenty-Eighth Annual Graduate Fortnight

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As President of The New York Academy of Medicine it is my great pleasure to extend a most cordial welcome to you at this opening meeting of our Twenty-Eighth Graduate Fortnight.

For the benefit of those who are with us for the first time this evening, I would like to review briefly the origin of the Graduate Fortnight and call your attention to a few important features of the program.

The Graduate Fortnight was actually started at the suggestion of Dr. Ludwig Kast in 1927. He was then Professor of Medicine at Post-Graduate Hospital and Medical School and had been interested for many years in graduate training of physicians. The plan of having a two-week seminar on various subjects in the postgraduate fields of medicine and surgery was greeted with enthusiasm. Some of the most distinguished names in medicine and its allied sciences have participated in these meetings since their inception in 1928 and they have become

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an integral part of the Academy's activities reaching large audiences, who look forward to them each year.

The title of this year's program, PROBLEMS OF AGING, is surely one of the most timely, and it is extremely interesting to note, that this was also the title and subject of the first Fortnight held in 1928. It is now an established fact that we have a growing proportion of our populace living beyond the age of sixty-five years and as these numbers increase there is bound to be a corresponding rise in the incidence of chronic and geriatric diseases and a relative need for major surgery in these older patients. The problems of aging are too numerous for us to mention here but the program committee has gone into this topic in great detail and we will hear much more about it at the various discussions and clinics during this Fortnight. The program, as you will notice, now includes three very important memorial lectures, i.e., the Ludwig Kast, the Wesley M. Carpenter and the Harlow Brooks.

There is little doubt that you will all realize as you scan this year's program that its arrangement was a stupendous task which was started last December. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who helped make it possible: Dr. Irving Wright, Chairman of the Committee on Medical Education, Dr. Robert Craig, Executive Secretary, and the members of this committee. Dr. Clarence de la Chapelle, Chairman of the Subcommittee on the Graduate Fortnight and the sixteen members of his committee deserve great praise for spending many hours of hard work in arranging this program. I would also like to thank Dr. Charles Wilkinson, Jr., Chairman of the Committee on Panel Meetings and the nine members of his committee, as well as the Directors of the Scientific Exhibit, Dr. Alfred Angrist and Dr. Norman Higinbotham. Please do not miss seeing this interesting exhibit. We are very grateful to Dr. Carl Muschenheim, Chairman of the Committee on Hospital Clinics and the members of his Committee who have arranged a splendid group of clinics. These are held in the various hospitals each afternoon and I urge you all to visit them as you will find them well worth your while.

I am confident that the work and effort put into the arrangements for this program will bring rich rewards and I hope you will all enjoy this Graduate Fortnight meeting.